

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for triggering personal protection means (12), having a surroundings sensor suite (14) and a contact sensor suite (13), the apparatus being configured in such a way that the apparatus influences a pedestrian protection algorithm (16) as a function of a first signal of the surroundings sensor suite (14), and influences a pre-crash algorithm (15) as a function of a second signal of the pedestrian protection algorithm (16) that takes into account a third signal of the contact sensor suite (13), the apparatus triggering the personal protection means (12) as a function of a fourth signal of the pedestrian protection algorithm (16) and a fifth signal of the pre-crash algorithm (15).
2. The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first signal indicates an estimate of an impact time.
3. The apparatus as defined in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the second signal indicates the impact time.
4. The apparatus as defined in any of the preceding claims, wherein the pre-crash algorithm (15) determines an impact velocity as a function of the second signal.
5. The apparatus as defined in any of the preceding claims, wherein the pedestrian protection algorithm (16) adjusts a first noise threshold as a function of the first signal.
6. The apparatus as defined in any of the preceding claims, wherein the pre-crash algorithm (15) adjusts a second noise threshold as a function of the second signal.
7. The apparatus as defined in any of the preceding claims, wherein the third signal is a contact signal.

8. Use of the apparatus as defined in any of Claims 1 to 7,
wherein the apparatus provides the impact velocity for the pre-crash algorithm
(15) and for the pedestrian protection algorithm (16).